



**Prevention Committee Meeting  
 Florida Department of Health – Health District Center  
 1350 NW 14th St, Conference Room 401B, Miami, FL 33125  
 October 24, 2024 Minutes**

*Approved January 22, 2026*

#	Members	Present	Absent	Guests	
1	Bethel, Shakka	x		Bateman, Raynal	
2	Buch, Juan	x		Ferrer, Luigi	
3	Darlington, Tajma	x		Jansen, Natasha	
4	Duberli, Francesco		x	Pache, Rosa E.	
5	Fernandez, Chad		x	Payne, McKenzie	
6	Forrest, David	x		Sanchez, Rosa	
7	Ichite, Amanda		x	Saxena, Praveena	
8	Johnston, Jeremy	x		Stonestreet, Stephanie	
9	Lopez, Crystal		x	Thomas, Andrew	
10	Marqués, Jamie		x	Williams, Stephen	
11	Medina, Jesus	x			
12	Muñoz, Virginia	x			
13	Orozco, Eddie		x		
14	Pierre, Ross		x		
15	Pereira, Daniel		x		
16	Santiago, Grechen	x			
17	Shmuels, Diego		x		
18	Vertovec, Jack		x		
<b>Quorum = 7</b>				<b>Staff</b>	
				Bontempo, Christina	

All documents referenced in these minutes were accessible to members and the public prior to and during the meeting at [www.aidsnet.org/the-partnership#prevention1](http://www.aidsnet.org/the-partnership#prevention1).

**I. Call to Order**

Virginia Muñoz, Prevention Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

**II. Introductions**

Ms. Muñoz called for introductions of members, guests, and staff.

**III. Housekeeping**

Members took turns reading the Housekeeping PowerPoint slides including general reminders, code of conduct, people first language, and meeting participation best practices. Copies of the presentations were in the meeting packets and were numbered for easy reference..

**IV. Floor Open to the Public**

Ms. Muñoz opened the floor to the public with the following statement:

*Pursuant to Florida Sunshine Law, I want to provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to be heard on any item on our agenda today. If there is anyone who wishes to be heard, I invite you to speak now. Each person will be given three minutes to speak. Please begin by stating your name and address for the record before you talk about*

*your concerns. BSR has a dedicated telephone line as well as a general email address for statements to be read into the record. No statements were received via the telephone line or email.*

There were no comments, so the floor was closed for public comment.

## **V. Review/Approve Agenda**

Ms. Muñoz requested members review the agenda, and noted that the Integrated Plan item needs to be removed until the related Florida Department of Health presentation is approved. Ms. Muñoz called for a motion to accept the agenda with the change indicated.

**Motion to approve the agenda with change indicated.**

**Moved: Shakka Bethel**

**Seconded: Grechen Santiago**

**Motion: Passed**

## **VI. Review and Approve Minutes of September 25, 2024**

Ms. Muñoz gave members time to review the minutes of September 25, 2024. There were no changes, so the Committee adopted them as presented.

**Motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2024, as presented.**

**Moved: Juan Buch**

**Seconded: Dr. David Forrest**

**Motion: Passed**

## **VII. Reports**

### **▪ Membership**

Ms. Muñoz announced that the Membership Report is posted online and included in today's meeting packet. At this time, there are 18 members on the Prevention Committee and one application pending. The committee may have up to 24 members. Going forward, all vacancies on the Prevention Committee must be filled by persons with HIV who may or may not be Ryan White Program clients.

Prior to the meeting, Ron Ledain tendered his resignation. Ms. Muñoz presented a certificate of appreciation for Mr. Ledain which was presented to Kenia Sanchez in Mr. Ledain's absence.

Ms. Sanchez has applied for membership. She introduced herself and the Chair called for a motion to approve her as a new member.

**Motion to approve Kenia Sanchez as a member of the Prevention Committee.**

**Moved: Grechen Santiago**

**Seconded: Jeremy Johnston**

**Motion: Passed**

Members welcomed Ms. Sanchez.

## **VIII. Standing Business**

### **▪ Review of Draft Letters Regarding Youth HIV Prevention**

Members reviewed the latest draft letters regarding youth prevention in schools which incorporated the recommended changes from the previous meeting. Staff advised that the final letters would need to be reviewed by the Assistant County Attorney, prior to being brought to the Partnership for ratification.

Members noted that other data may be available on vectors, however the associated program is no longer being funded. It was also noted that although the recommendations of the committee may not be heeded at this time, it represents the committee's due diligence to bring concerns to elected officials. Likewise, sending the letters gives members a starting point to follow up on any progress on youth HIV education.

**Motion to approve two letters regarding youth HIV education, pending review by the Assistant County Attorney.**

**Move: Jesus Medina**

**Seconded: Kenia Sanchez**

**Motion: Passed**

▪ **Miami-Dade County HIV Prevention Workgroups - Call to Action!**

- Florida Black HIV/AIDS Coalition – Miami Chapter and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Workgroup: Praveena Saxena reported on recent and upcoming meeting dates, World AIDS Day planning, and the HIV Prevention Trials Network study regarding PrEP and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for young Latino sexual minority men.
- Hispanic Initiative (Iniciativa Hispana): Luigi Ferrer reported on National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Days events and the impacts from Hurricane Ivan. He noted the National HIV Testing Day numbers indicate more HIV test than in previous years, and he thanked community partners for their participation.
- The Miami Collaborative MSM Workgroup and Transgender Tenacity Power: Mr. Ferrer reported the workgroup heard a presentation on molecular clusters and announced an upcoming dinner meeting on November 14. He noted the Mpox numbers are down since the outbreak and cautioned that free vaccinations will end on October 31, 2024, though persons with insurance can still get the vaccinations from the Florida Department of Health.
- Youth Health Committee: Andrew Thomas reported on recent and upcoming meeting dates and noted the workgroup is discussing restructuring, recruitment, and partnering with University of Miami to develop and administer a survey to parents.

**IX. New Business**

▪ **Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates and Agenda Setting Calendar**

Members reviewed the Agenda Setting calendar which included dates for the Joint Integrated Plan Review Team meetings and the stand-alone Prevention Committee meetings. Members made the recommendations below to include presentations throughout the year in alignment with National HIV Awareness Days. Presentations will continue to lead discussions on Integrated Plan activities in order to keep on track of Plan monitoring and development.

<b>HIV Awareness Days</b>	<b>Suggested Presentations, Presenters, and Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ February 7: National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</li> <li>▪ February 28: HIV Is Not A Crime Awareness Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lamar McMullen, Sero Project</li> <li>▪ Praveena Saxena re Florida Black HIV/AIDS Coalition - Miami Chapter</li> <li>▪ Data on Black/African American and HIV (Ryan White Program/FDOH)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ March 15: National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</li> <li>▪ March 20: National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Queen Holden</li> <li>▪ Targeted Outreach for Pregnant Women Act (TOPWA) Program</li> <li>▪ Planning for National HIV Testing Day, including a committee event (in accordance with special project requests)</li> <li>▪ Data on women with HIV (Ryan White Program/FDOH)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May 18: HIV Vaccine Awareness Day</li> <li>▪ May 19: National Asian &amp; Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data on Youth (Ryan White Program/FDOH)</li> <li>▪ Future Leaders of the World video(s)</li> <li>▪ Care Resource video(s)</li> <li>▪ Promoting National HIV Testing Day</li> </ul>

HIV Awareness Days	Suggested Presentations, Presenters, and Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ August 20: Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</li> <li>▪ August 27: National Faith HIV/AIDS Awareness Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hep-C (Gilead)</li> </ul>

▪ **2025 Officer Nominations**

Ms. Muñoz gave members a minute to review the Officer Nominations and Elections Memo. Ms. Muñoz is the appointed Chair from the Florida Department of Health, and Tajma Darlington is eligible to serve another year as Vice Chair. Mr. Darlington agreed to put his name on the ballot and Ms. Muñoz invited any other members to place their name on the ballot, if interested. No other members were indicated an interest. Per the memo, nominations will also be taken prior to Elections at the February 2025 meeting.

**X. Announcements and Open Discussion**

Members and guests announced upcoming events and funding opportunities.

Dr. David Forrest announced he is moving to a full-time teaching position at the University of Miami and will be stepping down as the IDEA Exchange Program Director. Dr. Forrest will continue with IDEA Exchange as a researcher and Dr. Edward Suarez will be the interim Program Director.

**XI. Next Meeting**

Mr. Darlington announced the next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024. at 10:00 a.m. Members agreed by a show of hands to hold the November 2024 and subsequent 2025 stand-alone meetings at the FDOH – Health District Center, and Joint Integrated Plan Review Team meetings at the Main Library, for as long as that space is available.

**XII. Adjournment**

Ms. Muñoz adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.